

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1-9. (Canceled).

10. (Original) A method for automatically configuring a network cache, the method comprising:

receiving as input from a user interface a user ID of a user object located in a database;

querying the database for the user ID;

outputting to the user interface objects having the user ID;

receiving a selection of the user object to associate with the user ID;

retrieving the user object;

outputting to the user interface attributes of the user object ;

receiving a selection of an attribute name associated with the user ID within the user object;

storing the attribute name associated with the user ID in a configuration file in the network cache;

receiving a selection of the attribute names associated with one or more group ID's within the user object;

storing the attribute names associated with the one or more group ID's in a configuration file in the network cache;

receiving a selection of an object other than the user object having the user ID;

retrieving the object;

receiving a selection of the attribute names associated with the attributes utilized to identify the non-parent group; and

storing the attribute names in a configuration file in the network cache.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein retrieving the user object further comprises receiving as input a password corresponding to the user ID.

12. (Original) A machine-readable medium having sequences of instructions stored therein which, when executed by a processor cause the processor to perform a process comprising:

automatically configuring a network cache so that the network cache is able to communicate with a database to authenticate a user; and

operating the network cache.

13. (Original) A device, comprising:

a network cache; and

a user interface to allow an operator to enter a character string known by the operator to be within a user object located in a database such that the character string is used to automatically configure the network cache so that the network cache is able to communicate with a database to authenticate a user.

14. (Original) The device of claim 13, wherein automatically configuring a network cache comprises:

searching for a character string in a plurality of objects located in a database;

selecting an object from a subset of objects found to contain the character string;

retrieving the object;
receiving a selection of the attribute name associated with the character string in the object; and
storing the attribute name in a configuration file in the network cache.

15. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein the character string is a user ID.

16. (Original) The device of claim 15, wherein retrieving the object further comprises receiving as input a password corresponding to the user ID.

17. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein the attribute name corresponding to each group ID in the object is selected and stored in a configuration file in the network cache.

18. (Original) The device of claim 17, wherein if a non-parental group object is found to have the user ID, the network cache retrieves the non-parental group object, receives a selection of the attribute names associated with the attributes utilized to identify the non-parental group, and stores the attribute names in a configuration file in the network cache.

19. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein the network cache guesses which attributes to select once the object from the subset of objects has been retrieved.

20. (Original) The device of claim 18, wherein the attributes stored in the configuration file are checked for correctness.

21. (Original) A device for automatically configuring a network cache, the device comprising:

- means for receiving as input from a user interface a user ID known by an operator to be within a user object located in a database;
- means for querying the database for the user ID;
- means for outputting to the user interface objects having the user ID;
- means for receiving a selection of the user object ;
- means for retrieving the user object;
- means for outputting to the user interface attributes of the user object;
- means for receiving a selection of an attribute name associated with the user ID within the user object;
- means for receiving a selection of the attribute name associated with one or more group ID's within the user object;
- means for receiving a selection of an object other than the user object having the user ID;
- means for retrieving the object;
- means for receiving a selection of the attribute names associated with the attributes utilized to identify the non-parent group; and
- means for storing each attribute name when each attribute name is selected.

22. (Original) A method, comprising:

- automatically configuring a network cache by searching for a character string in a plurality of objects located in a database;

receiving a selection of an object from a subset of objects having the character string;

receiving a selection of an attribute name associated with the character string in the object; and

storing the attribute name in a configuration file in the network cache.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the character string is a user ID.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the attribute name corresponding to each group ID in the object is received as a selection and stored in a configuration file in the network cache.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein if a non-parental group object is found to have the user ID, the method further comprises:

retrieving the non-parental group object;

receiving a selection of the attribute names associated with attributes utilized to identify the non-parental group; and

storing the attribute names in a configuration file in the network cache.

26. (Original) A processing device comprising:

a processor; and

a storage facility coupled to the processor and storing instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processing system to perform a process comprising:

automatically configuring a network cache by searching for a character string in a plurality of objects located in a database;

receiving a selection of an object from a subset of objects having the character string;

receiving a selection of an attribute name associated with the character string in the object; and

storing the attribute name on the network cache.

27. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the character string is a user ID.

28. (Original) The device of claim 27, wherein the attribute name corresponding to each group ID is received as a selection and stored in a configuration file in the network cache.

29. (Original) The device of claim 28, wherein if a non-parental group object is found to have the user ID, the method further comprises:

retrieving the non-parental group object;

receiving a selection of the attribute names associated with attributes utilized to identify the non-parental group; and

storing the attribute names in a configuration file in the network cache.